

GODS OF NOTHINGS

A FREEFORM LARP
FOR 4-6 PLAYERS

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You are an assembly of small and insignificant gods, assigned to hear the requests of ordinary mortal supplicants.

MATERIALS:

At minimum -

- ✿ Paper and/or cardboard, for mask-making.
- ✿ Tape
- ✿ String
- ✿ Markers, and other writing utensils to mark the masks with
- ✿ A twenty sided die, and a six sided die

Make other art-making materials available and as accessible as you wish.

SETTING:

The setting is a table, set for a gathering of gods - but it is a committee meeting, not a feast.

You are here to work, but there might be some indulgences, like candles or a bowl of grapes.

Nothing too decadent; you're just small and insignificant gods.

IDENTITY (AN OPENING RITUAL)

First, what are you the god of?

(pick one, or roll a twenty sided die)

1. worker ants
2. old photographs
3. burnt embers
4. borrowed objects
5. twine
6. dirty paintbrushes
7. tourist shotglasses
8. leftover food
9. cocoons
10. vinyl records
11. exhalations
12. sea urchins
13. stained glass
14. road signs
15. movie trailers
16. bonsai trees
17. city pigeons
18. batteries
19. winks
20. junk drawers

You may take an expansive interpretation of the powers you have, but they must be rooted in your domain.

Second, make your mask. A piece of paper with holes in it is sufficient. Add a mark or feature to it that signifies your domain.

When ready, begin **THE CYCLE**.

THE CYCLE:

The cycle consists of five **WORK** and **REST** cycles, or if three supplicants have suffered an ironic death, whichever happens first.

WORK

Your supplicant approaches. They are a small and mortal human.

Wear your mask; they must not see your face.

✿ Who is your supplicant?

✿ What do they ask for?

(roll a twenty sided die on each chart)

THE SUPPLICANT

1. Jonah, an accountant
2. Naomi, an artist
3. Meng, a farmer
4. Rashid, a scholar
5. Brad, a hedge fund manager
6. Lucille, an actor
7. Chaucer, a landlord
8. Sruthi, a reporter
9. Sara, a girlboss
10. Tanner, a salesman
11. Rafael, a dogwalker
12. Jeff, a ceramicist
13. Ezra, a priest
14. Jhonny, a musician
15. Hemu, an attorney
16. Kate, a playwright
17. Alvaro, a bartender
18. Pierre, a mime
19. Darren, a sous chef
20. Mari, a ghost

THEIR REQUEST

1. a decadent home
2. a quiet lover
3. a spirited child
4. some time alone
5. revenge on a lover
6. to feel something
7. a perfect meal
8. a dream deferred
9. a faithful friend
10. a warm hearth
11. a room of one's own
12. to erase a memory
13. to begin again
14. wealth and fame
15. a simple life
16. success beyond imagining
17. something loyal
18. a good idea
19. injury to a loved one
20. the death of a rival

WORK, CONTINUED

Discuss with the other gods what the supplicant has asked for, and what their true problem is. With your fellow gods, collaborate on a plan to resolve the supplicant's desires. Of course, you may also choose to work against them. Especially if they are annoying. You are a god, after all.

Still, you only have powers within your small and insignificant domains.

✿ How will you bend that power?

Roll a six sided die to see what happens to your supplicant.

1. The supplicant life is transformed into something beyond their hopes.
2. The supplicant's life is changed for the slightly better.
3. The supplicant meets a bittersweet fate.
4. The supplicant appears entirely unaffected.
5. The supplicant falls into avoidable tragedy.
6. The supplicant suffers an ironic death.

Together, describe the supplicant's fate and how they were led to it. You may disagree on the details. After you have done the difficult work of determining a small human's fate, **REST**.



REST

REST is a five minute period of reflection. You must remain silent during this time; do not interact or look at your fellow gods.

During **REST**, remove your mask. **Mark or modify your mask in way that reflects your time with this supplicant, how you feel about their fate, and the role you have played.**

After five minutes, it is time for another **WORK** session.

*(After five **WORK/REST** cycles or three ironic deaths, whichever occurs first, it is time to **END**.)*

THE END:

Your time as a god of nothings is over.

This is an open forum.

- ✿ Are there any unsaid things for your fellow gods?
- ✿ Do you stand by your choices?
- ✿ Do you wish you did anything differently?
- ✿ Do you have regrets to express, or hopes for your supplicants?

When you have said enough, fall silent and remain silent.

When every god has fallen silent, let the silence linger for as long as you can bear.

WHEN YOU FEEL READY FOR THE END -

REMOVE YOUR MASK.
SET IT DOWN.
LEAVE.

